

ACTING WITH PURPOSE
In the Practice of Law

William P. Ring, M.S. Ed., J.D.
Coconino County Attorneys Office
Flagstaff, Arizona
wring@coconino.az.gov
© copyright 2013, William P. Ring


If you didn't care
what happened to me,
And I didn't care
for you,

We would zig zag our way through the boredom and pain
Occasionally glancing up through the rain.

Wondering which of us brothers to blame
And watching for pigs on the wing

--Roger Waters

FLAGSTAFF ARIZONA



FLAGSTAFF ARIZONA



Coconino County Courthouse

COCONINO COUNTY



1970 = 43,326 2010 = 134,821

18,617 Square Miles Population Density 6.85/sq.mi.



WHERE DOES CONFIDENCE
COME FROM?



LISTEN TO THE PREPARATION




LOOK AT THE CALCULATIONS



FEAR NOTHING

Except the lack of preparation

TAKE THE SHOT



**STRESS IS A REACTION TO
THREATS, REAL OR PERCEIVED**

There is good stress

- Adrenaline and cortisol release is in reaction to real or perceived circumstances.
- The reaction is felt in heart, muscles and lungs.
- A small hit at the right time can give you the edge.
- Examples of increased performance:

There is bad stress

- The prefrontal cortex is also effected, which is in charge of decision-making and emotion.
- It can start a fear reaction early; days, weeks or months in advance of an event.
- Examples of neurosis-like behavior:

THE STRESS RESPONSE

Understand what is happening

Elevated stress hormones can improve performance in the short term, or diminish performance in the long term.

It depends on whether you enjoy or dread the activity you are engaged in.

Stress in a job you are passionate about can be that winning edge.

BAD STRESS

Physical & Mental Signs


- Increased H.Rate and B.Pressure.
- Compromised immune system.
- Weight Gain. Fatigue.
- Headaches. Muscle aches.
- Decreased concentration & Memory. Confusion.
- Difficulty managing decisions.
- Decreased Libido.
- Frayed chromosome ends that can cause a variety of cancers and are linked to triggering the DNA death spiral.

Emotional & Behavioral Signs



- Increased Aggression.
- Reliance upon substances.
- Changes in eating and sleeping.
- Anxiety, Worry, Fear.
- Irritability & Frustration.
- Nervousness & "shivers".







GOOD STRESS



Grace under Fire



Managing stress in jobs they are passionate about is the elegance of Winners

THE STRESS BALANCE ZONE

The Zone
*Where your challenge
 is balanced by your*

Skill

Energy

Focus

Preparation

- Too little challenge, or too little autonomy and you'll likely be unfulfilled.
- Too much ambition or expectation too often and you'll likely panic or burn out.

ACT WITH PURPOSE

"Most of us die with our song still in us."

Oliver Wendel Holmes
United States Supreme Court Justice

ACTING WITH PURPOSE

"Performing one's own natural calling, tinged as it may be with faults, is far better than performing someone else's calling perfectly. Even death in performing one's natural calling is better; for performing the duties of another is fraught with danger".

Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 3, Verse 35

ACTING WITH PURPOSE

Like any hat, you gotta wear it like you own it.



Good Hats

ACT WITH PURPOSE

There are only

2 Questions

3 Hungers

4 Factors

5 Points

ACT WITH PURPOSE

2 Questions:

What do you want?

How do you know when you've got it?

ACT WITH PURPOSE

3 Hungers

To connect deeply with the creative spirit in life.

To know and express your gifts and talents.

To know your life matters.

ACT WITH PURPOSE

4 Factors

Respond from the inside out.

Discover your gifts.

Seek out what moves you.

Find Solitude every now and then.

ACT WITH PURPOSE

5 Points

- *Don't get so caught up in doing the busy-work that you lose sight of the meaning of your work.*
- *From here on out time picks up speed.*
- *Take risks in life that add value to the lives of others.*
- *Fulfillment comes from being fully integrated as you express your talents.*
- *Seek out what needs doing in the world.*

ACT WITH PURPOSE

"A man knows he has found his vocation when he stops thinking about how to live and begins to live."

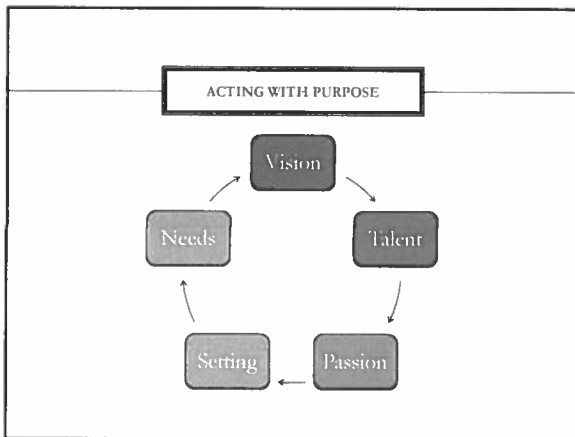
"When we are not living up to our true vocation, thought deadens our life, or substitutes itself for life, or gives in to life so that life drowns out our thinking and stifles the voice of conscience."

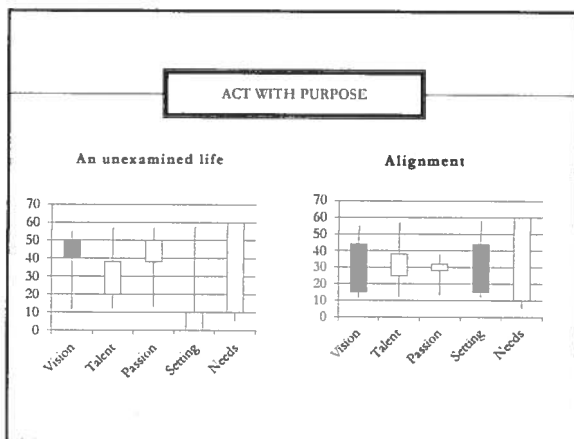
"Suppose one has found completeness in his true vocation. Now everything is in unity, in order, at peace. Now work does not interfere with prayer, or prayer with work. One does not have to think of giving an account to anyone but God."

*Thomas Merton, **Thoughts in Solitude** (1956)*

ACT WITH PURPOSE

Vocation is the crossroads where your vision, your talents and your passions intersect with something that needs doing in the world.





ACT WITH PURPOSE

Category	Value (approx.)
Vision	45
Talent	35
Passion	30
Setting	45
Needs	45

When you are in alignment

$$\text{Work} = V \times (T+P+S)$$

Then you do your best work. You've discovered what needs doing in the world that requires your beliefs and your talents, and the setting supports your effort.

ACT WITH PURPOSE

$$\text{Work} = V \quad (x) \quad (T + P + S)$$

ACT WITH PURPOSE

Moral Clarity

"[T]he fundamental problem is that we have confused rules with principles. Rules can always be bent. Principles cannot... There is no substitute for personal principles... Where human behavior is concerned, any true, lasting change has to come from within." And remember:

SOME THINGS ARE NOT FOR SALE

James P. Owen, *Cowboy Ethics, What Wall Street Can Learn From the Code of the West* (2004)

Courage

"It's not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena... who strives valiantly... who spends himself for a worthy cause... and who, at the worst, if he fails at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat".

--Theodore Roosevelt (1910)

ACT WITH PURPOSE

"People want to do something that matters. To be part of something bigger than themselves. To give themselves to something meaningful... Many people work at jobs that are too small for them... And yet, meaningful work is hard to come by."

-- Barbara Brown Taylor

ACT WITH PURPOSE

"Know that work connects us to other people... And every interaction with other people offers us the chance to make things better (or make things worse)".

The question is: What do you choose to *do* with the opportunity that is presented to you at each and every moment?

ACT WITH PURPOSE

The answer is:
Do Justice



ACT WITH PURPOSE

The answer is:
Know Mercy



ACT WITH PURPOSE

The Answer is:

Act with care and compassion



PROFESSIONALISM

Is There Evidence Of Justice, Courage, Moderation and
Virtue in the Practice of Law?

The Rules of Professional Conduct

RULE 1.1 COMPETENCE

“A lawyer shall provide competent representation to a client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation.”

- Perhaps the most fundamental legal skill consists of determining what kind of legal problem the situation involves.
- Ascertain what's at stake; read the case correctly the first time.
- Make Adequate and Thorough Preparation.

RULE 1.3 DILIGENCE

A lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client.

- Pursue the matter despite opposition, obstruction or personal inconvenience.
 - Act with Commitment and Dedication.
 - Treat People with Courtesy and Respect.
- *These are the attributes of COURAGE, including tenacity and zeal; but also NOT pressing for every possible advantage for the client.*

RULE 3.1 MERITORIOUS CLAIMS

(a) “A lawyer shall not bring or defend a proceeding, or assert or controvert an issue therein, unless there is a basis in law and fact for doing so that is not frivolous....”

(c) The signature of an attorney constitutes a certificate by him that he has read the pleading, motion, or other court document; that to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief, formed after reasonable inquiry, it is well grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law; and that it is not interposed for any improper purpose such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation.”

RULE 3.3 CANDOR

A lawyer shall not knowingly:

- (1) make a false statement of fact or law to a tribunal or fail to correct a false statement of material fact or law previously made to the tribunal by the lawyer;
- (2) fail to disclose to the tribunal legal authority in the controlling jurisdiction known to the lawyer to be directly adverse to the position of the client and not disclosed by opposing counsel; or
- (3) offer evidence that the lawyer knows to be false. If a lawyer, the lawyer's client, or a witness called by the lawyer, has offered material evidence and the lawyer comes to know of its falsity, the lawyer shall take reasonable remedial measures, including, if necessary, disclosure to the tribunal. A lawyer may refuse to offer evidence, other than the testimony of a defendant in a criminal matter, that the lawyer reasonably believes is false.

RULE 3.4 FAIRNESS TO OPPOSING COUNSEL

A lawyer shall not:

- (a) unlawfully obstruct another party's access to evidence or unlawfully alter, destroy or conceal a document or other material having potential evidentiary value. A lawyer shall not counsel or assist another person to do any such act;
- (b) falsify evidence, counsel or assist a witness to testify falsely, or offer an inducement to a witness that is prohibited by law;
- (d) in pretrial procedure, make a frivolous discovery request or fail to make reasonably diligent effort to comply with a legally proper discovery request by an opposing party;
- (e) in trial, allude to any matter that the lawyer does not reasonably believe is relevant or that will not be supported by admissible evidence, assert personal knowledge of facts in issue

PURPOSEFUL PRACTICE

We Are Acting with Purpose in the Practice of Law When We Are:

- Competent
- Diligent
- Just
- Candid
- Fair

PURPOSE

We Show Our Care And Compassion
And That Our Life's Work Matters
When We Are:

Competent
Diligent
Just
Candid
Fair

You know that I care
what happens to you.

And I know that you care
for me too.

So I don't feel alone or the weight of the stone
Now that I've found somewhere safe to bury my bone.

And any fool knows a dog needs a home.
A shelter from pigs on the wing.

--Roger Waters
